

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 SAB-02 CA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /080 W

-----065643 280940Z /10

R 272015Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4292

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 7738

REF: STATE 252630

1. THE MECHANISM OF "SELF-CENSORSHIP" IN PANAMA IS BASED ON CABINET DECREE NO. 343 OF OCTOBER 31, 1969, WHICH READS: "THE EXPRESSION OF OPINIONS AND, IN GENERAL, THE PUBLIC TRANSMISSION OF THOUGHT, ORALLY, IN WRITING OR BY ANY OTHER MEDIUM, IS NOT SUBJECT TO PRIOR CENSORSHIP, BUT, THE EXERCISE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ENGENDERS THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THIS CABINET DECREE ESTABLISHES WHEN THROUGH ANY OF THESE MEDIA AN ATTEMPT IS MADE AGAINST THE REPUTATION OR THE HONOR OF PERSONS OR AGAINST THE SECURITY OF SOCIETY OR PUBLIC ORDER."

2. THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION MEDIA OF THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT IS LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCEMENT OF DECREE NO. 343, BUT ACTUAL ENFORCEMENT IS INFORMAL. STRICT CONTROL IS UNNECESSARY BECAUSE, SINCE 1969, THE MEDIA HAVE USUALLY CHOSEN TO ERR ON THE SAFE SIDE OF THE DECREE RATHER THAN RISK BEING SANCTIONED. EDITORS TEND TO SHY AWAY FROM CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES UNLESS THEY RECEIVE PRIOR CLEARANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT. THREE OF THE FIVE PANAMANIAN NEWSPAPERS ARE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED, RECEIVING DIRECT GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE.

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3. RADIO AND TELEVISION CENSORSHIP IS NORMALLY HANDLED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT. RADIO STATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO RECORD THEIR BROADCASTS AND, ON REQUEST, TO SUPPLY TAPES AFTERWARDS TO THE MINISTRY. TELEVISION STATIONS MUST RECORD THE AUDIO PORTION OF THEIR PROGRAMS. GONZALEZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA07738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770396-0789
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771015/aaaaamnb.tel
Line Count: 62
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a6b0426-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 252630
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 769824
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20041109
Subject: CENSORSHIP
TAGS: PGOV, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a6b0426-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009